पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी. शंकरानन्द) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) मौजूदा डीलरशिप/ डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप के समाप्त होने पर नए डीलर की नियुक्ति की जाती है।

(ग) विपणन अनुशासन दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार ऐसा अधिकारी अनियमितताओं की जांच कर सकता है जो तेल उद्योग में बिक्री अधिकारी के रैंक से तथा राज्य सरकार के खाद्य एवं सिविल आपूर्ति विभाग में निरीक्षक के रैंक से नीचे का न हो।

(घ) बुंदरा बिक्री केंद्र के 895 मामले तथा एल०पी०जी० डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप के 298 मामले।

(ङ) जी, नहीं।

Setting up of oil refineries

1374. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have liberalised the hydrocarbon sector and have decided in principle to allow private and foreign investments in setting-up of refineries, development of discovered oil fields and exploration of oil blocks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of setting-up of oil refinery and oil exploration programmes in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Apart from the Fourth Round of bidding under which negotiations are being held with bidders to finalise contracts, Government have decided to offer exploration acreage to private companies on a continuous round-the-year basis. A decision has also been taken to develop certain medium sized discovered oilfields in joint venture with private companies and to offer certain small sized oil gas fields to private companies for development on a production sharing basis. A decision has also been taken to set up refineries in joint venture with private companies.

(c) Two blocks in the Orissa onshore were offered in the Fourth Round of bidding but no offers were received for these blocks. A site selection Committee has been constituted to identify suitable location for 6 million tonnes proposed grassroot refinery to be set up in Eastern India during Eighth/Ninth Plan Period.

NRI investment for oil refineries

1375. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed/agreed in principle to allow NRI investment/participation for oil refinery projects; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Government have approved setting up of three new grassroot refineries, each with a capacity of 6 MMTPA as 8th Plan projects as Joint Ventures with suitable private parties in India or abroad. Proposals from private sector companies who can bring in technology and investment in the area also considered.

Supply of Gas to Tata Electric Company

1376. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which published in the Financial Express of 3rd July, 1992 under the caption "ONGC cuts supply to Tata Electric";

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the cut in gas supply to the TEC has resulted in cut in electricity supply in Bombay and other areas causing great inconvenience to public;